

CM-386-61

OCT 11 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL TAYLOR

Subject: Strategic Air Planning and Berlin (U)

Reference: Memo for Gen. Leunitzer from
General Taylor Dated 6 September 1961

1. In response to the referenced memorandum on the above subject, the following comments are furnished.
2. Prior to the approval of the Single Integrated Operational Plan, there were many divergent views concerning the concept for employment of strategic forces. The arrangements in being, prior to the effective date of SIOP-62, did not achieve the optimization of forces, weapons, and operational procedures required for effective employment of strategic nuclear forces of the United States.
3. The current Single Integrated Operational Plan was the first attempt by the Joint Chiefs of Staff to consolidate the strategic nuclear effort into one single plan. While it is realized that SIOP-62 is certainly not the ultimate in strategic planning, it is far better than anything previously in existence.
4. The development of SIOP-62 required consideration of many factors that affected the flexibility of operations, as well as those that affected the successful execution. Flexibility of execution and controlled response has been a major concern of the Joint Chiefs of Staff since the approval of the first target list in 1950; however, the major factor that has inhibited the incorporation of greater flexibility into the current SIOP has been the degree of survivability of the committed forces. In the near future, the increase in our relatively secure weapons systems will assure us of the capability for greater flexibility of operations, together with a greater capability for controlled response.

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5. The Joint Chiefs of Staff are presently revising the guidance for SIOP-63 with an objective toward achieving greater flexibility commensurate with the survivability and capability of the committed forces. In addition, the Director, Strategic Target Planning, is making a study of flexibility so that he may improve SIOP-63 in this regard.

6. Although there are a number of points enumerated in the attached study to your memorandum that the Joint Chiefs of Staff would not agree to, there is no argument over the need for greater flexibility.

7. The Joint Chiefs of Staff consider that the new guidance for SIOP-63 will take into account the requirement for greater flexibility, and for increased capability for withholding and controlled response. The plan for 1963 will represent a considerable improvement over the existing plan. In the meantime, the Director, Strategic Target Planning, has recently incorporated a number of changes into SIOP-62 designed to be responsive to current basic national security policy and increase the capability of the current plan for withholding and controlled response.

(Sgd) L. L. LEMNITZER

L. L. LEMNITZER
Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff

Re DJSM-1232-61

cc: Director, JS

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